



Mary Hubler

State Representative--75th Assembly District

Hubler Testimony on Assembly Bill 602 – Crossbow Hunting Assembly Committee on Natural Resources December 19, 2007

Dear Chairman Gunderson and committee members:

Thank you for receiving my testimony. I have introduced this bill at the request of a former state resident who loves to come back to Wisconsin to fish and hunt. Non-resident hunters are important to our state's economy and to our efforts to control the size of our deer herd.

My former constituent pointed out that Wisconsin resident bow hunters who are older than 65 may hunt certain game, including deer, with a crossbow. Non-resident archers of the same age are barred from using crossbows in Wisconsin.

This is the very rough equivalent of selling fishing licenses to non-residents but barring them from using spinning rods. The crossbow is a tool available to qualified residents. Equally qualified non-residents are barred from using that tool.

I believe generally that those who are willing to pay for non-resident licenses should have equivalent rights under those licenses to state residents. I think that holders of non-resident archer licenses who are 65 and older ought to be permitted to hunt with crossbows, too.

I believe that Wisconsin should do everything it can to attract non-resident hunters for the reasons I cited earlier.

Assembly Bill 602 would grant non-resident archers older than 65 the right to hunt with crossbows, as residents of that age may do now.

I hope that the committee members favor the bill too and that Chairman Gunderson moves quickly to schedule the bill for executive action.

Thank you.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

REPORT OF THE
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Edgar Harvey, Jr., Chair
N3635 Timberview Road
Waldo, WI 53093
920-528-7071

Robert Bohmann, Vice-Chair
1105 Melvin Ave.
Racine, WI 53402
262-681-2055

John Edelblute, Secretary
2332 Belfast Lane
Hartford, WI 53027
262-673-2813

December 19, 2007

Re: Wisconsin Conservation Congress Position on AB 602: Non-Resident Senior Crossbow Legislation

Position: Support AB 602

In April 2007, a resolution was introduced in Winnebago County, at the annual Spring Fish and Wildlife hearings, which was similar to the language and intent of AB 602. The resolution (attached) passed 49 to 19 in Winnebago County. On Friday, December 14, the Conservation Congress Big Game Committee reviewed this resolution and voted to advance the resolution, which means the question could appear on the April 2008 statewide Spring Hearing Questionnaire as a Congress Advisory Question.

In addition to advancing the resolution, the Big Game Committee also voted to support AB 602. On December 18, 2007, the Conservation Congress Executive Committee concurred with the Big Game Committee and voted to **support AB 602** as it provided non-residents the same opportunities afforded to resident seniors age 65 and older. The Congress does not believe that non-resident senior citizens who use crossbows will have a negative effect on the deer population.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration:

Ed Harvey,
Chair

As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

02-71-07

Resolution

The Problem:

Under the paragraph in the regulations entitled Bows, Arrows and Crossbows, it states crossbows are not legal to use except the following:

1. Resident and nonresident disabled hunters issued a Class A, Class B Crossbow, Class C or Crossbow permit.
2. Resident hunters 65-years of age or older with the appropriate hunting license.

The guideline should be the same for residents and nonresidents. The law allows resident hunters 65-years of age and older to hunt with a crossbow. I believe this should also apply to nonresidents 65-years of age and older as well.

Be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at it's annual meeting held in Winnebago County on April 16, 2007 recommend that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by making a rule change to allow anyone over 65-years of age with the proper archery license to hunt with a crossbow during the archery season.

Name of Author Richard Koerner
Address: 540 Sunrise Bay Road
Neenah, WI 54956
County Winnebago
Phone 920-722-0433

Signature Richard Koerner 4-16-07

County Vote Yes 49 No 19